115 oldest Seris then alive of over 70; Ramon Cor-
[165] rales, claiming to be 37 and on the dim-witted side; Jesus Montanyo, a quiet, cooperative man of 21; Natcheo Molina, aged 35 or so, whose interest in the protestant hymnals was unfortunately far greater than in giving me the information I wanted; Jose Manuel Romero, about 37 years old on his own claim; and Jose Barnett, Miguel's son,
825 aged 14. Inclusion of young Barnett was a lucky strike because it indicated clearly differences in the natural history knowledge between the older men and the young men, later confirmed also in the incidental questioning of several young boys.
●[868] Young men start out with general interest in animals of all sorts, including the small invertebrates, but as they grow up they end up with solid knowledge of economically important species and slim, forgotten knowledge of the insignficant invertebrates.

124 I made an endeavor to obtain the same sort of information from several informants in order to eliminate as far as possible aberrant answers or peculiarities. The most solid information is available for the mammals, which are, of course, well-known. Here in some cases the same kind of information had been obtained from five individuals. In other instances only two to three were available and sometimes only one. What was surprising about the information given were not the differences, which I often indicated in the text, but the amount if identical agreement on almost every single item of data between different individuals.

Since it was impossible to obtain information on all animals from the same individuals, the questioning proceeded in "blocks." By this I mean, I would question for example two individuals about the entire order of mammals (every species of them) and another two on the birds. Two other individuals then would be questioned on half of the birds and half of the mammals, while the other two on half of the reptiles and half of the fishes; still another two on half of the insects and half of the marine invertebrates, while others would yet cover all of the insects or reptiles or fishes independently. This I believe is a useful procedure. It allows to test generalized concepts of natural history for several individuals for diverse groups. It is motivated by the question of no little importance. What does so-and-so know about mammals and what does he know about birds?
[825] What are his generalized ideas of each group? It had been soon discovered that when it concerns special points, the informants were apt to have standardized notions of what the animals did, regardless of the actual situation. The less actual observational knowledge they actually had, the more frequent were pat replies. Obvious demonstration of this helped a great deal to eliminate such pat answers or to recognize them for what they were and to account for them in the final analysis.

ooo Another point in the procedure is of par-

[P.5A]

9:Malkin E-5 (1953-1955)1962 NU31 Seri NU31

XI

SUMMARY

224 Hunting is very decidedly secondary to fishing, although it is still much practiced by certain individuals and in a desultory way probably by all.

462 There is a clean cut division of labor in all these occupations. Fishing and hunting are men's occupations, gathering of the desert animals and beachcombing for the intertidal animals is largely the job of women and children. Boys get broken [868] into men's occupations in adolescence, girls into women's jobs very much earlier.

224 Avoidance of fishing or hunting certain creatures appears much more a matter of custom than of well defined and socially rationalized attitude. Frequently an animal is not hunted simply because the Seri feel it is too big and too strong for them to tackle.

157 Through all these activities, Seri individualism is curiously woven and accounts for the failure of anything that might resemble a collective effort.

Food Preferences and Preparation

252 Seri food is prepared in a simplest sort of way. [263] Boiling in water is usual with salt and sometimes a few other spices added. While most food is prepared that way, snakes and fishes are usually fried, without any ingredients. There has been a [178] notable shift toward greater fanciness in the ingredients, as they have become more readily available.

262 There are many preferences. Animals are scaled in desirability. Some fishes, marine turtles, chuckawalla, deer and peccary and duck are at the top of the list; lower animals, smaller fishes including puerco in the middle, while the sea gull and the pelican are probably at the very bottom of the pit. This again reflects temporal changes in tastes [178] although not necessarily a direct influence from the Mexicans.

Pets

231 Few pets are kept, other than dogs. Such animals as come are those captured accidentally. In most cases they are bird nestlings.

Taxonomy

* 825 Differential criteria are applied in the classification of different groups. There is less tendency to group birds than to group different mammals and classificatory ideas break down almost completely in smaller animals, especially insects and molluscs. Considering the economic importance of the molluscs, poor ability to distinguish the Gastropods from the Pelecypods is striking.

The classificatory criteria differ for different groups. Mammals are generally recognized by the furiness, birds by the ability to fly and the pres-